The COMIC READER

#30

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS
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NEWS CREDITS: Paul Leiffer, Murray Boltinoff,
Steve Perrin, Andy Zerbe, Kenuth Heineman,
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Manning.

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George Pacinda-
N.Y. Correspondent
Steve Perrin-
Convention write up
ARTISTS-
Paul Rybarczyk-cover
Paul Thompson-page 4 & 19
Raymond Miller-page 14

Acknowledgements-
ACG-John Force, Herbie.
Gold Key-the Phantom, Samson.
D.C.-Flash, Aquaman, Blackhawk.
Marvel-Capt. America, Thor.
Charlton-Fightin' Five.
Archie-the Shadow.

U.S. COMICS ON SALE IN SOUTH AFRICA

About a month ago I was a little more than amazed to enter my favorite Chinese "Cafe" and find on display the complete list of Marvel comics! And not re-prints either! These were the real thing and I darn near flipped. The strange thing was that they were August editions and that they hit the stands at exactly the same time as I received copies from Jeremy Barry. At first, in spite of assurances from my Chinese friend, I thought the sale of these publications was something accidental. But when the D.C. books arrived a few weeks later... Well, now Icm safely report that U.S. comics, certain English reprints and now only a few S.A. reprints are once more freely available in the Republic! Price: 6 cents each (S.A.) which is about on par with the American price.

It would take a longer letter than this to describe the initial re-action of readers who had not seen Green Lantern, Flash, Atom, Etc., for more than ten years. While pretty excited about the events there was a lot of wonder, curiousity and just plain what-the-hells when confronted by their favourite heroes in new dress. But all has been accepted and the comics, as in years past, are being eagerly snapped up. Today the Super Comics reprints (Blue Beetle, Dynamic Man, Spirit, etc.), D.C., Marvel, and a few Dell and Gold Key (no Phantom, Magnus or others yet) are available for a miserable 6 cents-or if you want the latest editions a month in advance, these can be purchased from the Central News agency for 10 cents each.

This is something I have long hoped for, and I'd like to think that my letters to Pretoria, the various magazines and publication Boards had something to do with it. I don't know and I don't think so, however, they are here, and perhaps this will help to increase still the number of subscribers to Fandom. Thus, I'm all in favour of Bill Spicer's idea to advertise in the Marvel zine-although I don't know how S.A. fen would be able to post dimes to the U.S. Perhaps in this connection I could reprint whatever details you propose distributing, and distribute these in S.A. at my own cost? I have thought of advertising in the press, but I doubt that this method would have any success. This thought prompted by the success achieved when trying to find old comics that were for sale.

-John Wright
P.O. Box 1277
Port Elizabeth
S. Africa

To the Readers

The Executive Board of the Academy of Comic-Book fans and Collectors overwhelmingly voted to support Glen Johnson as publishing editor of TCR for an indefinite tenure. Members of the Board expressed special satisfaction with the news coverage and the special features in issue #28. All fans are encouraged to supply Glen with any late news or pro activity. It would also help to let the pro-editors know that the Academy fully supports TCR as its official newsletter.

The Executive Board also wishes to announce the election of Paul Gambaccini, 8 Elizabeth Drive, Westport, Conn. as Executive Secretary for the coming year. The new Secretary would appreciate receiving comments and suggestions regarding the Alley Awards Ballot. Please get these comments and suggestions to him within the next few days because work is already beginning on the 1964 Alley Awards Poll.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Bails, Retiring Sec.

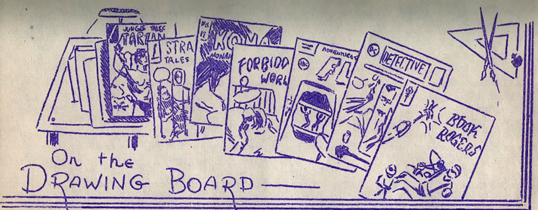
BACK ISSUES. I still have back issues of TCR #26 that may be had for a 5¢ addressed envelope. These are incomplete. There are no back issues of #27, a few of #28 & 29 selling for 25¢ plus an addressed envelope. No subscriptions for TCR will be excepted beyond 35 at this time. I mentioned last issue that it is no longer necessary to send addressed envelopes with orders, but this doesn't mean you can't if you want to. It makes my job easier, and your copies arrive in better condition. If you don't wish to send envelopes, and you have your own gummed address lables, and would like to make sure your address is correct, and to help me also, please send me one address lable for each issue you order.

FANZINE CHECKLIST. I would like two or three different fans to work together and make a complete checklist of every cotton-picken fanzine around today. I'd also like the latest issue, the cost and the process used in duplicating. Fans interested, please contact me, and I'll pick three of you to work together. I'd like to publish the checklist in a future issue.

LEN WEIN. Where is the copy of Aurora #3 I ordered long, long ago? If anyone knows Len, ask him about it!!! I've written several times, and he doesn't answer my letters. See more on undelivered fanzines elsewhere.

ARTISTS. I'd like to thank the many artists who have sent in art, but it is hard to use something on master unless plans have been made to use it. After all TCR is a newsletter. Many fans who have been asking why TCR doesn't carry articles, this is the reason. I'd still like samples of different artists work.

END



BOMBSHELL ANNOUNCEMENT! There definitely WILL be a new SECRET ORIGINS! Not much is known about the content, but Jack Schiff has been looking thru old ADVENTURES for the origin of Aquaman, and the first Emergency Squad story from JIMMY OLSEN might be used. This second issue will also be edited by Jack Schiff and Julius Schwartz. For a wild guess, I'd say that the origins of the Atom and Hawkman might be in it.

GREAT NEWS FROM MARVEL! Daredevil #5 battles the Matador. He's world's greatest bullfighter type character. The best is yet to come. Wally Wood will pencil and ink. It sure will be great to see his work once again.

FIGHTIN' FIVE. The artists of the Fightin' Five are Bill Montes & Ernie Bache, and the author is Joe Gill.

JOE SINNOT is illustrating two new Dell comics. The names are not yet known, but may be known next issue.

DR. SOLOR/SUPERMAN. Can anyone confirm if Frank Bolle is the same person as Frank Bohle who illustrated the Whitman Superman coloring book It is assumed that he is the same Frank W. Bolle that once drew Tim Holt/Redmask for M.E. and Robin Hood for Sussex, and, apparently is now drawing Dr. Solar for Gold Key.

THE RAVEN/PANTHER. Due to a death in the publishing firm, Young's Merchandising Co., Australian costumed hero creations, "The Raven" and "The Panther" have been discontinued. The last issue of the Raven was #10. The final issue of the Panther was #73.

WORLD WAR STORIES. Dell is currently producing a new war series, which will follow the very popular COMBAT series, but will be an running account of the First World War.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD / ON THE FOUR COLOR PRESSES / ON THE STANDS

DOOM PATROL. Watch for more of "The Brotherhood of Evil" in the future. The title for this issue will be, "Showdown on Nightmare Road". Arnold Drake created the team, but Bob Haney has written one story. Other interesting news - MENTO will definitely return in another story.

MAGNUS. Don Christenson, who has previously done animated humor scripts for Gold Key, is writing Magnus #10. The story is about a robot created of "magnetic flux" that destroys quite a bit of North America.

HARLAN ELLISON, top scifi writer and currently writer for such shows as Burke's Law, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, and Outer Limits, is also an old Hawkman fan. Recently, he wrote editor Julius Schwartz, asking if Julie would like a Hawkman story from him. Schwartz sent his approval and Ellison is currently doing the yarn! Mr. Ellison has no idea when it will be finished or published.

CHALLENGERS. A future Challenger story will feature "The League of Challenger-Haters", a dramatic story involving Kra, Multi-man, Drabney, and Volcano Man, four enemies from the past.

SUPERMAN & FAMILY. The Feb. issue of WORLD'S FINEST has the Robin/Olsen team deserting Batman and Superman. Superman (Feb.) has the imaginary novel featuring Luthor as "Clark Kent's Brother". The Jan. Jimmy Olson has the last Magi and Sandra story. In the Feb. Adventure, the Bizarro Legion will be featured. The Feb. issue of Lois Lane features "Superman's Secret Wife."

SARGE STEEL. It is reported that the story in #2 isn't as good as it could be, but the art is suppose to be terrific. In #3, which is to be the best of all Sarge Steel stories, a new villain, the SKULL is introduced, the Skull has a "Golden Luger".

J.L.A. #32. "Attack of the Star-Bolt Warrior" is an unusual J.L.A. tale, no Wonder Woman, and Green Lantern doesn't enter 'til late in the story.

FLASH. The Feb. issue has the Scarlet Speedster against Capt. Cold in the cover story. Yep, Capt's in love again! The other story has villains with super power against the Flash.

TARZAN. Pat Masulli is a man of many talents. He is not only the editor for Charlton, but he did the cover for the first Tarzan issue.

ATOM. The March issue will have another Time-Pool adventure with Jules Verne.

STAR HAWKINS. Jack Schiff says he MAY bring back Star Hawkins in S.A.

THE FACTS. Hourman's JSA partner in the first B&B team up with JSA teams will be Dr. Fate, and the best is yet to come. The artist will be none other than Murphy Anderson. The artist who did B&B #56, and who so many fans asked if I knew who it was, has been found out. He was Bernard Baily, the old Spectre and Hourman artist. His style sure has changed.

JLA. Cover feature on the latest JLA cover "on the drawing Board" is going to have: Batman, Superman, Flash, Green Lantern, and Hawkman. They face three unusual...and unbeatable...menaces, including an infinite monster and the other JLA members.

CAPT. ATOM. I feel that the Capt. Atom announcement was a little on the early side. Here is a quote from Pat Masulli's secretary : "Captain Atom will be revived when the company and Mr. Masulli feel the time is right".

METAMORPHO. Ramona Fradom is doing the penciling, Charles Paris is doing the inking, and Robert Haney is doing the writing. The first issue is concerned chiefly with the origin of Metamorpho.

JOE SIMON wrote a fan stating that he would have some art appearing in the "Electrical World" magazine in the Sept. 27th issue of THE NEW YORK TIMES. Did anyone see this, and if so, please write.

BURKE'S LAW #3 has an interesting tale about Hollywood monsters.

J.S.A./B&B. Julius Schwartz will be the editor of the JSA teams.

TARZAN/JCMars. "Of course GOLD KEY is NOT going to drop Tarzan or Karak...JCMARS is wavering. ERB, Inc. is looking into Charlton's comic plans".

TOKA/NAZA. Toka #3 will have a line drawing on the cover as will Naza #6. Naza #5 was the first as you may know, which the line drawing was tried. ((What is a line drawing? I ask this because I know many readers will ask me.))

TOMAHAWK will feature "Prisoner in the Bull's Eye" climaxed by the threat of Tomahawk being shot down by his own Rangers.

ANNUALS. Since the Annuals became 80 PAGE GIANT, you'll see ads in it. A few pages were cut in some reprints, but nothing to mar the plots. The monster issue includes "The mystery of Monster X", "The Thing that Stalked Smallvile", "The Battle with Bizarro", "Jimmy Olsen's Private Monster", "Creature of 1,000 Disguises", and "The Hyper-Menace from Krypton".

SPIDER-MAN #21: features the Beetle and the Human Torch
#22: Features the Ringmaster
#23: features the Green Goblin

SHOWCASE/B&B. The first JSA team up will be in SHOWCASE, not B&B which will continue with METAMORPHO. Hourman and Dr. Fate battle Solomon Grundy, an old foe of the original Green Lantern, who also gets into the battle.

CON WITHIN A CON

Comic Fans at the World Science Fiction Convention

by Steve Perrin

I left the Redding Greyhound station around 1:30 AM, fully intending to catch a nap on the bus so that I would be reasonably ready and refreshed for the first day of the convention, Sept. 4. Instead, I found that my seatmate would be starting at my college in the coming semester, so I spent the full five hour trip to Oakland talking to him.

Thus, when I got into the bus station, I was beat. Hanging around the station for two hours to await a suitcase didn't help matters. Finally, I gave up and hopped a taxi for the Hotel Leamington. The hotel where the convention was being held.

My co-editor with Mask & Cape, Margaret Gemignani, had told me that she could be in the hotel the preceeding night, so once I had my room, I went and knocked at her door. Since it was eight-thiry in the morning, I succeeded in waking her up. A half hour later we were eating breakfast in the coffee shop and flinching at the prices.

From here on, things began to highball. While registering, Margaret and I ran into Rudy Franke and his sister, whom he had brought along to help him carry his massive load of comics and old pulps from the early days of science fiction. Rudy's co-editor, Barry Bauman, soon made his appearance, and we adjourned to my room, where everyone parked their gear, since Rudy and Barry live in Oakland.

By some chance, Mickey Martin had the room almost directly opposite mine, and he was soon adding to the general confusion. By this time, my roommate for the con, John Chambers of Fantastic, had arrived and parked his gear. It was only a short time before Bill Dubay, Marty Arbunich, Paul Moslander, and Clint Bigglestone all joined the party. Since every one of the last live in the Bay area, naturally they also parked their things in our room. I encouraged this, since it made John and my room the focal point for fan operations, comic fans that is.

Of course, the science fiction convention was also going on at this time, and at noon we went down to participate in the program of lectures and talks, all of which were tremendously interesting for scifi fans, of which I am one. Such speakers as Harlan Ellison, John Brunner, Fritz Leiber, Paul Anderson, Anthony Boucher, Phillip Dick, and many other notable fan and pro personalities made for several enjoyable hours of listening throughout the convention program.

By the end of this first day, another focal point had arisen, the room shared by Don Glut and Larry Ivie. Don brought the costume made by Larry Ivie that Don used in his Captain America serial. It was really an excellent costume, and, in fact, Don won a prize with it in the masquerade Saturday night.

Since I'd been without sleep since Thursday morning, I went to bed about 11:00 PM that night. John, having snatched some sleep sometime

before, managed to hold on for several more hours, reading the comics he bought from Marty Arbunich. I,however, was dead to the convention until the next morning, when Margaret and I again ate breakfast together and moved into the second day of the con.

Along the way we met other fans. Al Kracalik of Chicago, who qualifies as a sort of Multiple-Fan; comics, scifi, movies, and the likes, and also published the fine Outre (not recommended for straight comic fans, unless you want a little variety in your reading.) Allen is a very interesting guy to meet, and I consider him about the best new contact I made with fans at the con.

Jeremy Barry, ace TCR reviewer, also made an appearance, making several friends among the attending comic fans. A knowledgable man in both comics and science fiction, he was a pleasure to talk to and helped liven up several conversations.

Also, for those who are looking for a refreshing personality in fandom, there was Captain America's greatest fan, Cathi Manfreadi. Cathi has plans for a fanzine of her own devoted to comics, and further information can be had by asking me.

The guest of honor at the convention was Edmond Hamilton and his wife, Leigh Brackett. Hamilton, of course, besides being an excellent scifi writer is one of the main writers for Superman and the Legion of Super-Heroes. An interview with him will appear in the new zine, Voice of Comicdom, from the Golden Gate Publishers. (i.e.; Bill Dubay and Rudy Franke.) He was an intriguing man to talk to, and his comments on his Superman efforts were extremely informative and gave an insight a fan might not get.

Finally, Monday evening around 9:00, I had to catch a bus. I shook the hands of those of us who were left and dashed away, but not so fast that I couldn't think about the friends I had made in those four days. Those four days of the World Science Fiction Convention in Oakland built a base for many new and promising friendships among comic fans. Until comic fandom can support its own conventions, I suggest that comic fans make use of the facilities provided by the scifi fans to get together and build for the future of their own fandom.

END

THE MIDWEST CHAPTER of the Academy is being re-organized. All fans/collectors living in the states Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, N & S Dakota, Kansas, or Nebraska, please write to PAUL THOMPSON, 21 Thrush St., Carpentersville, Ill., 60110. However, for various reasons, Chicago fans are not eligible, and if there are any Chicago fans interested in a Chapter, I suggest you contact Bill Placzek, 1901 W. Superior St., in Chicago, for membership in the Collectors of Chicago.

QUESTION. Is Don Rico, who will script for Dr. Strange, the same as the artist who once illustrated the original DAREDEVIL for Lev Gleason, and Sgt. Spook, the Target, Gary Stark and many more for Novelty Press?

QUOTES FROM THE READERS

Ron Fradkin
33 Tinder Lane
Levittown, N.Y.

I agree with the stand you've taken on Adam Strange. I don't think another fan crusade will get us anywhere. However, I would like to see Schwartz back, editing Adam Strange, since I used to buy his books and I've stopped buying it since Schiff took over.

TCR was really great this month. That cover was wild. Let's have more. I also like the idea of having artwork in TCR.

((I'm glad you like the cover Ron. I'm afraid I ruined the original, and I had to retrace it, and I'm no artist. I hope this one comes out better. Paul does nice work, and for #31 I've asked him to do the illo for "On The Drawing Board", and Biljo White is doing the cover.))

Roy Thomas
Apt. G
3600 Hallmark Lane
St. Louis 25, Mo.

Probably the most gratifying thing I noticed about TCR #29 was the fine answer you gave to Donald Ensign's letter concerning a letter campaign to "Save Adam Strange" I have long thought that fans tend to magnify the strength of comic fandom far beyond its actual state. I wish the state of affairs they suggest were true, but I just don't think it is. We can be idea men---but hardly policy makers. There just isn't enough of us. For every Ronn Foss or Jerry Bails who can give a detailed analysis of why Joe Kubert is a better choice for Hawkman than Murphy Anderson, there is a little kid who found the artwork in the first Hawkman story "fuzzy".

Mike Friedrick
17474 Ehle St.
Castro Valley, Calif.

Who do you think you're kidding?Kubert on Batman?? You must be joking. Even if Julie could get Joe off his schedule to do it, he would wreck Batman. I admit Kubert is an excellent artist, but for Batman, no dice.

Concerning Batman-Adam Strange. I agree with you 99%. I feel Schiff is doing a very good job on A.S. Lee Elias' art can easily be compared to Infantinos' (not as good, of course, but almost) and while the stories haven't been the greatest, they have been passable. The addition of the Space Ranger was also a good stroke and now that Adam and Space Ranger are beginning alternate covers (I hope) MIS is doing fine. The same goes for Eclipso. Naturally since Schiff, Boltinoff and Kashdan have sort of a common pool of writer and artists there was no need to change the writer, so the characterization wasn't changed. The only change was in the art and here I differ from you. I think

the present artist, Jack Sparling is awful. I don't like Toth very much but I was getting use to him, but Sparling is worse than Toth. What I'd like to see is Elias return. All he is doing now is Adam Strange and those ever existant Cave Carson-Showcase stories.

But getting back to Schiff I definitely feel that the so called loss of MIS and the definite loss of SA was worth the tremendously excellent improvement in Batman and Detective. In just six months, Schwartz has turned out the best cover of all time (Batman 164), one of the best team-up stories (Detective 331), and the best Batman story in literally twenty years (in Detective 167). For these reasons alone I have put Batman at the top of my list , joining himself at the top of my all-time favorite list.

Paul Gambaccini
8 Elizabeth Dr.
Westport, Conn.

I'm in agreement with you about Adam Strange. I fondly recall the "great" stories (the first ten-or-so double lengthers), but note that deterioration began to set in shortly before Hawkman moved in. Men cannot remain fresh all their lives; Gardner Fox is no exception, he got stale. The art with the terrible inking, was getting worse. Although the deterioration has reportedly increased under new editorial jurisdiction, BATMAN, with the old staff of Strange, has improved. In other words, the "fresh" talents of three men for a new character (the 3 being Fox, Schwartz, Infantino, Broome, Giella. . . hmm, that's more than 3) are once again coming into play. When Batman runs dry in a few more years, I'd like to see Schwartz and Co. move on to something new. To summarize: Batman's downward plunge has been reversed, Strange's has continued. I think we gained on the deal. Fandom can't have everything, and it's about time fen realized Jack Schiff and his type of work has a following somewhere. I do have a complaint, and this is the discontinuation of fine STRANGE ADVENTURE series. However, that is Schiff's editorial policy. I strongly disagree with it, but I have no choice but to honor it, since he has used it, apparently successfully, for many, many years.

((I don't know what happened to all the hardened fans of Adam Strange, but not one wrote in his behalf. As I see it, fans feel that there was no loss in trading Detective and Batman for MIS and SA, but that MIS and SA are not as good as before, and the Batman comics have improved. It is also a general feeling that Lee Elias isn't doing so bad with the art in MIS, (and I'd also like to see him doing Eclipso again.)but the other stories are lacking. A few fans wrote that the addition of the Space Ranger into MIS was a wise move, and I agree. I don't know where all the fans are that felt fandom lost out in the editoral change, I didn't hear from them.

This may come as a shock to many, but quite a few fans are still unhappy with the art for the new BATMAN. While in Califorina, the general opinion was that Batman was being handled much better under Mr. Schwartz, but there was still room for great improvement. Later that day I mentioned to Rick Durell that I thought Kubert's dark, mysterious style was just what the Batman needed. To say Rick was

enthused, is putting it mildly. Later this summer while visiting Biljo White, I again mentioned Kubert doing Batman, and to my surprise, he had recently been thinking the same thing. This is how the drawing of Batman in TCR #29, in the Kubert style came about.

This may seem an odd time to campaign for a team up in B&B now that the JSA teams are about to appear, but maybe after these we could start asking that Joe Kubert to do an issue with Batman and Hawkman. Kubert doing Hawkman in his own book is obviously a dead issue, but I do think Kubert's style is perfect for Batman. Since I see no possible way that Kubert might display his ability to illustrate Batman, I'm suggesting that Batman and Hawkman team up in a forth coming B&B story. For the Kubert fans who love to see him draw Hawkman, this should be a treat. I think it's a shame that an artist with Kubert's ability is absent from costume hero comics. I'd be happy if he were to do any B&B issues.

I think that we all have our own private campaigns. I've written countless letters asking that Hawkman become a JLA member, so have many other fans. Did this cause Hawkman to become a member, or would he have become a member anyway? I've written to the ACG quite a few times asking that John Force be featured in one of their titles, and he was. A pet campaign of mine was to have Automaton's name changed to ROBOT-MAN. After many letters this too came about. The thing I say we can't do is demand!! If something is brought to an editors attention enough, I think it stays in the back of his mind. A few suggestions I've continued to suggest are: (1) let Elongated Man make a guest appearance in one issue of the JLA; (2) have Adam Strange battle with and against Eclipso on the planet Rann, since both are under the same editor now; (3) have Eclipso appear in the JLA as part of a team of villains. I may yet see all three events occur, but not by printing in a fanzine that upon read, "That we should all join together and demand this or that from the editor". They must just sit back and roar their heads off when reading something like that.))

Donald D. Ensign
3280 E. Bakerview Rd.
Bellingham, Wash.

I see that it would be appropriate to write at this time to you to clear up my views on the Adam Strange issue.

First of all, I myself thought that a Save Adam Strange campaign might be futile, but as I have stated, why should we, the comic fans, let the 'great' Adam Strange slip into oblivion so easily? I mainly sent this previous letter to cause a stir in comicdom, so that this issue could get aired. I sincerely hope that at this time everyone's views and opinions are expressed, while this controversy is still fairly fair in mind.

((Donald's letter is quite long, but space doesn't permit the printing of the complete letter. He did mention that both TCR #28 and 29 had August as the month. This was my mistake, #29 was for September.))

Andrew Tully, who writes a daily column in a large number of newspapers, has recently compared Sax Rohmer's villains in the Dr. Fu Manchu books to those in James Band's. As a youngster Dr. Fu Manchu was one of the titles he read, and he says,"Compared to Fu Manchu and his hirelings, the Bond villains are a bunch of milksops. Fu Manchu could have sacked the lot of them for being too sissified".

Dan Barry (daily "Flash Gordon") has returned from 6 years residence in Austria to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the strip this year.

NEWS FROM D.C. There's no official policy regarding the artists signing their names. "We often do it, adding the writer's name to the first page because he should share in the credit (or demerits)". ((I don't know how most fans feel about this, but I'd like to see each piece of work with the name of the artist and author)).

Most of the art of TV "animated" feature "Space Angle" is by Alex Toth.

Photos and stories of 39 artists are included in the new large format paperback AMERICA'S TOP CARTOONISTS by Allen Willette-introduction by Mort Walker. $1.95, Allied Publications.

D.C.'s France Herron writes "the "Rip Tide" & "Bat Materson" comic strip.

Paul Newman(GK writer) currently scripts "The Long Ranger" strip.

After NYC and Los Angeles, the nation's #3 cartoonists' center is probably Santa Barbara, Calif. home of Tom Cooke, Lyman Young, Ken Ernst, Nick Firfires, Bill Woggon, Dan Spiegle, and Bill Zeigler.

Did you know that Target Comics carried a letter page as early as 19 43?

Moe Gollub, artist of the very beautiful Tarzan covers, had a hand in the art on Hanna-Barbera's newest TV animation, JOHNNY QUEST.

Both the Chris Welkin-Planeteer and Vic Flint syndicated newspaper strips are written by Robert Russel Winterbotham, educated at Kansas U., newspaper man, editor, police reporter, and NEA staffman, since '43, living in Cleveland, O. suburb. Russ has written dozens of juve nile books, & many stories of Tom Mix, Gene Autry, Bob Trent, Ray Land, the 3 "Maximo " Big Little Books, Whitman's Ghost Avenger, Red Ryder and the Whispering Walls (with Fred Harman), Joyce of the Secret Squadron (Capt. Midnight), Smilin' Jack and the Daredevil Girl (w/ Zack Mosley), How Comic Strips are Made (1946), also numerous comic books and over 200 pulps and st-fi. In addition has has scripted an impressive number of comic strips including "Capt. Midnight" (41-42), "Capt. Easy" (43-50), "Red Ryder " (43-49), "Chris Welkin (since '51) & "Vic Flint" (since '62).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Alex Schomburg, who did so many action-filled Timely covers in the 40's has recently done some excellent cover work for Amazing Stories Mag.

Some of the old Facett editors are still around:

Wendell Crowley-
is with a lumbering Co.
Mercedes Shul-
runs the New York dude ranch, "Bits' n' Bridals".
Al Allard-
is still a Fawcett art editor.
Virginia Proversiero-
is at McFadden Publications.
Kay Woods-
is with Hearst.

Danny Cassidy
5370 Kedrac Street
Jacksonville, Florida
COMIC FAVORITE

Adam Strange fans can have Infantino and Schwartz back. Though Jack Schiff has failed at everything else he got Batman moving along with flying colors since he took him over in 1959. I'm not complaining about the Batman's art (Bob Kane). What's wrong with it? Bob Kane has been doing a good job since 1939 and no one has complained up until now. He's one of the only DC artists left who knew how to draw a background in. Infantino's art is very unrealistic because he refuses to attempt to put in a decent background in each panel. I don't like Adam Strange so I'd be glad to see Infantino and Schwartz go back to MIS and let Jack Schiff have Batman once more. While Schiff has handled Batman, characters such as Catman, Bat-Mite, Batgirl, Clayface, and all the Batman [illegible] were present. Stories such as " Secret of the Dragon Society" (Det. #273), "The Menace of Clayface" (Det. #293, "Million Dollar Puzzle" (Batman #128), "Murder in Skyland" (Det. 303), "Murder in Movieland" (D.#314), "Batman's Super- Partner"(Bat.#127), and many, many more tales have been put out by Kane and Schiff while you fans rave about those pitiful Adam Strange comics which add up to nothing. Maybe I don't like A.S. because he strikes me as unAmerican. He seems to care more about Rann than Earth (that's one reason he would never make a good JLA character).

I was sort of angry when Biljo White suggested that Joe Kubert draw Batman. Kubert isn't good enough to draw Aquaman! I hope DC will let him stay with those good-for-nothing war mags. I really don't see what some of you fans see in his artwork (and I regret I called it even that).

((Danny-I was going to answer your letter, but instead, I'm sure some fans of Infantino and Kubert will come to the rescue. All I can say at this time is, that if Bat-Mite is your idea of a good character, well, I don't know just what to say.))

HOWARD Keltner
P.O. Box 246
Gainesville, Tex.
STAR STUDDED COMICS

About the fanzine review, I'd say forget it unless the majority of your readers want it. Why not ask for an opinion poll? As for myself, I don't put much stock in such reviews, for, they are, after all, just someone's personal opinion, and they generally differ. For example, your reviewer recently rated STAR-STUDDED COMICS very favorably, while another literally tore it to pieces. It all boils down to matters of personal taste, and I'd prefer to see only the facts (i.e., simple statements of the type material the publication contains) presented, and the opinions left off, probably I'm just in the minority here, though.

((I'm afraid you are in the minority. So far, you are the only fan who has mentioned disfavor in the fanzine review. There might be others who don't care for the review. If there are, write and let me know how you feel about it. I might mention at this time, that Howard has consented to do a cover for a future issue of TCR, so be watching for it))

END.

RLMc
THE BAT-MAN
REMEMBER THIS WEIRD FIGURE OF THE LATE THIRDIES?

THE EGO CRUSHER
by
Jeremy A. Barry

COMI-ZINE #1(35¢-ditto-from Andrew Fraknoi, 1950 Andrews Ave., Apt. 324, Bronx, N.Y. 10453) The 16 pages of this zine are devoted to a history of Superman from his inception in ACTION COMICS up to the present time. The author writes well enough to make his material interesting, and doesn't drag it out too long. This is of great interest to Superman fans.

Of interest is Fraknoi's editorial on what to do about crudzines; like don't buy further issues of the zines which disappoint you. Well now, COMI-ZINE is not a crudzine only by the virtue of the written material it contains. Otherwise it is a very undistinguished publication. The ditto is readable, though not consistently clear. The illustrations need something to be desire, and the magazine format is crowded and none to neat. The price of 35¢ is rather too steep for a zine with less than twenty pages I might add. And since Fraknoi will not be publishing another issue of COMI-ZINE I might add that he would have done better to submit this article to a regular publication such as COMIC WORLD where readers get more for their money. In short, though the Superman article is worth reading, COMI-ZINE was a mistake.

ROCKET'S BLAST #32 & 33 and ROCKET'S BLAST SPECIAL #4 (45¢ and 30¢ respectively-ditto-from G.B. Love, 9875 S.W. 212 St., Miami 57 Fla.) Sadly I must report that RB/CC has gone over to a bi-monthly publication schedule. The size grew so much that the editor could no longer meet his monthly deadlines. The question now arises as to whether fans will support a bi-monthly adzine as fervently as when it was monthly. Issues #32 & 33 are typical of previous issues in size and material. The ads are a must for the active collectors, and there are enough interesting features to keep the information hounds happy.

RB Special #4 is devoted to a 9 page(excluding several full page cover reproductions) survey of four costumed heroes of the early and mid-fifties who fought Communism. These are contrasted somewhat with those of the early forties who fought the Axis powers. The characters covered are Fighting American, The Avenger, The (new) Shield, and Jet Powers. Raymond Miller is the author. He has done a good job in presenting a readable, interesting, and informative article. He doesn't waste time by giving detailed summaries of all the stories which featured the characters. Instead he gives enough background material on their originations, and their major foes to make them interesting, and them goes on to give his opinions as to the quality of the characters, their stories, and the art. Unlike so many articles on comics the reader of this one is not left in the dark as to who the artist were nor what the writer thinks of them.

The only unfortunate note regarding this issue is the price. I just don't think 30¢ is a fair price for no more than 9 pages of text not matter how well written. I reiterate that I price of more 20¢ for a publication of less than 20 pages is too much.

FANTASY HEROES' HANGOUT #1 (50¢-offset cover front and back; ditto interior--from the Golden Gate Publishers, 60 Gladys St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110) This represents the combining of two Bay Area fanzines into one: Fantasy Hero and Heroes' Hangout. The over all impression is that of improvemant over the previous issues under separate titles. The main feature of interest to information hounds is an article on THE NEDOR COMIC GROUP by Marty Arbunich. This will give you the background in quite a bit of detail regarding the costumed heroes in Nedor comics. Despite the 16 pages (excluding full pages illoes) of material I cannot say this is the definitive article on Nedor. There are two reasons First of all the author's writing ability is still a bit unpolished, causing some confusion in the reader's mind as to what is meant in some instances; and secondly, the author confided to your columnist that these comics weren't so all-fired good as he has indicated in num-rous cases. In other words, to make the article look better, a number of excessively glowing remarks were made as to the quality. This is the main sin committed, for if the author admits excessive praise in some instances (and we don't know which instances), then obviously his article cannot be taken too seriously.

There is a 16 page comic strip containing all of Bill Dubay's characters. The art by Dubay and Rudy Franke, and written by Steve Perrin. Your reviewer lost track of what these heroes were supposed to be doing after several pages and doesn't know whether to blame the artists or author. The end result is a mish-mash which just fails to register as a worthwhile story. I've read quite a lot of worthless amateur strips laterly, and I'm beginning to wonder whether it's just me losing interest, or whether they're really as bad as I think.

For fans who want to know something about Mike Vosburg, John Wright, Ken Tesar, and the four editors of FHH, there are numerous photographs on the back and front covers plus biographical captions.

YANCY STREET JOURNAL #3 and 4 (15¢ each-ditto- same address as FHH) Marty Arbunich edits and publishes this zine with the help of Bill Dubay. It is a continuation of COMIC CAPER #1 and #2, but it is an entire ly different zine. CC was a general comic fanzine, but YSJ is devoted to discussion and review of the Marvel Comics only. It includes in these current issues articles on the Submariner and the Human Torch, plenty of Dubay artwork, a letter column in #4 plus reviews of all Marvel super hero comics published in August and September. If you are interested in discussion about the Marvel Comics in great (but not always glowing detail) this magazine should interest you. The main defect is in Marty's writing again, but he's improving all the time, and he CAN be read! But perhaps the nicest thing about this zine is the price. I wish other publishers would take note.

COMIC ADVERTISING REVIEW #3 and 4(8 for $1.00 or 15¢ each-mimeo - Bob Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37211) Bob Tells me that when he's in proper health again, he's sure he can continue CAR as a bi-weekly because he now has more time to spend on it than previously. These current issues continue to carry a small number

of advertisements. Perhaps this is due to RR/CC being known as the adzine in comicdom. CAR deserves better support since it comes out more often, has good reproduction, and interesting features as Jennings 'Hangman' fanzine reviews. If you think I'm tough, get a load of a real ego crusher!

WHO'S WHO IN COMIC FANDOM(published by Jerry Bails for the Academy of Comic-Books Fans and Collectors) This publication lists the names, addresses, and particular interests of many hundreds of comic fans. It is invaluable to the fan and collector who wants to make contacts around the world. I urge serious collectors to get their copy by joining the Academy. Write to Jerry G. Bails, 22529 Karam Court, Warren, Michigan 48091 for details (enclose a self addressed-stamped envelope with your inquiry), or check the advertisement placed by the Academy in issues of TCR to see what you get when becoming a member.

AN AUTHORITATIVE INDEX TO DC COMICS by Howard Keltner and Jerry Bails, (price $1.50 per copy -ditto- from Jerry G. Bails, same address as Who's Who) This is a reprint of the index printed last year. The index contains a listing of the major super hero comics published by DC and under each title lists which issues the various characters appeared in. This book is listed as Volume I so there will evidently be others in the series. The present publication is printed on paper of various colors and is readable throughout. Additions and corrections to this index will soon be available. Send a self-addressed-stamped envelope to Jerry Bails, Dept. I-$ at the address given above.

BATMANIA #1 and THE STRIPPER #1(free for 10¢ postage each-ditto and mimeo respectively-from Billy J. White, 407 Sondra Avenue, Columbia, Mo. 65201) These two zines are a pleasant surprise from Biljo, especially since with deep regret he had given up two other publications earlier this year. Perhaps they weren't dealing with material as close to his interests as he would like. Anyway now he is back with BATMANIA, a fanzine dedicated to anything and everything that has to do with Batman. The first issue contains some of Bill's best art in a long time, and some very interesting writing. Even if you don't care for Batman this issue has an interesting article by Russ Manning on the artist who drew the old Gene Autry and Johnnie Mack Brown comics. Russ refuses to give us the name of the artist, but knowledgeable fans will recognize him as Jesse March (Mutilator of Tarzan). A word of warning to those who order Batmania. Bill only wants Batman enthusiasts to get it, so I'd advise you to say something as to why you have an interest in this character.

THE STRIPPER is a fanzine which deals with the techniques of collecting comic strips from newspapers. It will contain articles on famous comic strips, as well as features on comic strip collecting. The present issue contains part I of "So You Want to Collect Comics Strips" by Bob Jennings. This is a reprint from Bob's own fanzine, THE COMIC WORLD. Ronn Foss writes on "How I Became A Strip Collector", etc. This issue contains quite a few ads, and their is an indication that THE STRIPPER will be a combination adzine-factzine. For 10¢ postage you can't go wrong.

END.

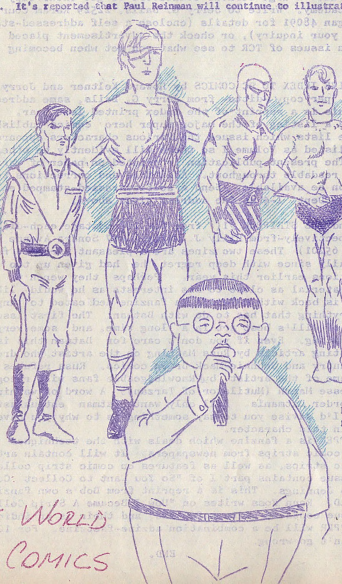
I don't know what to call this page, but here it is. It's sort of a fill in. An ad from Don Foote never arrived, and another from Star-Studded Comics also never reached my hands for this issue.

The illo below by Paul Thompson was originally sent as a cover, but lacking the title head, so I'm using it to take up room.

If you look at the number of pages, you might think I can't count. The reason for misnumbering is too lengthy a subject to go into.

LATE, late news. Some fans have commented that the new Shadow is the best written text yet from Archie. No wonder. The author is none other that JERRY SIEGLE. It's reported that Paul Reinman will continue to illustrate.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR



Boy, isn't HERBIE goodlooking?

New source prize for this issue goes to Jerry Pritchett.

THE WORLD OF COMICS

GIANT COMIC BARGAIN SALE!!

No orders under $3. All orders under $10 include 25¢ for postage. Send to:

ROY THOMAS * APT. G * 3600 HALLMARK LANE * ST. LOUIS 25, MO.

ALL-STAR #s 21, 22, 24——@ $11
ALL-TOP # 1 (giant comic)—— $1.50
BATMAN #s 19, 21——@ $2
  24, 29, 32——@ $1.50
  27 (pages out)—— $1
BLACK TERROR #s 22, 24——@ $1
BLAZING #s 2,3 (Green Turtle)— $1
BLUE BEETLE #s 32, 34, 38——@ $1
  36 (G, but cover loose)—— $1
CAPTAIN AMERICA # 41 (F)—— $1.50
CAPTAIN MARVEL #10 (FG, worn)— $2.50
  22, 29, 33, 34, 35, 38——@ $1.50
  42, 46, 53, 57, 58, 61, 63
  66, 71, 78——@ $1
COMIC CAVALCADE # 6 (fair)—— $2
  16, 25, 29——@ $1.50
CRACK COMICS (Capt. Triumph)
  35,38,42,44,45,46,47——@ $1.50
DETECTIVE # 92 (1 panel cut)—— $1.50
  134——$1
FRANKENSTEIN (humorous) #4——$2
GREEN LAMA (Raboy art) # 2—— $2
GREEN MASK Vol. 2 # 3—— $1.50
HIT COMICS (Kid Eternity) # 43 $1
JUNGLE COMICS (All Good Shape)
  83, 91, 100, 102——@ $1.75
LARS OF MARS #s 1, 2——@ $1

MASTER (CMJr.) # 59—— $1
  86 (Eng., no CMJr)—— $ .75
MILITARY (Blackhawk) # 39—— $1.50
MODERN (Blackhawk) 46,49,52——@ $1.50
PLASTIC MAN # 64 (fair)—— $1
POPULAR COMICS (Marvel Man) 54—— $1
ROCKET KELLY (No #)—— $1
SENSATION #s 20, 36—— $2
  50, 70, 99——@ $1.50
SMASH (Midnight) #s 31, 50, 65—@ $1
SPACE ACE # 5—— $1
STAR-SPANGLED #s 84, 90, 91——@ $1.50
SUPERMAN #s 5, 8——@ $3
  21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29——@ $1.75
  30, 34, 38——@ $1.50
TARGET V5#5,V6#1,V6#3,V7#3——@ $1
THRILLING (Doc Savage) # 54—— $1
VIC TORRY & HIS FLYING SAUCER—— $1
WHIZ (Capt. Marvel) 31,46,48——@ $1.75
  52,55,63,66,67,70,71——@ $1.50
  97, 113——@ $1
WILD BOY OF THE CONGO # 9—— $1
WINGS (Phantom Falcon) # 87—— $1
WORLD'S FINEST # 9 (cover P)—— $2.50
  12,13,15,16,17,18,19,24,25,27—@$2
  32, 36, 44——@ $1.75

NOTE ON CONDITION OF COMICS: Unless stated otherwise, all comics are in what I would consider fairly good or better shape if I were buying instead of selling. A few may have worn or slightly damaged covers and are priced accordingly, so be advised before buying. NO DEALERS, PLEASE!!

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Alter Ego

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

AE-7 is now being printed! The price is still 50¢ (60¢ in envelope). ALL PHOTO-OFFSET, 40 pages!

Partial Contents:

THE SAGA OF THE MARVEL FAMILY
ALTER & CAPT. EGO (Strip by Biljo)
FIRST GREAT DAYS OF THE HUMAN TORCH
THE JUSTICE SOCIET VS. SOLOMON GRUNDY
THE TRAGIC MONSTER
And Many More!!

ORDER NOW!! Run Limited! Send order to ROY THOMAS, address above!

TCR #30

Glen D. Johnson
Box 126
Crownpoint, N.M. 87313

THIRD CLASS MAIL

PRINTED MATTER ONLY

TO-

ERB-dom, the Burroughs fanzine with extra added attractions...like for you comic fans, a complete article on the ERB comics of Gold Key, the authors, the artists, the editors, with pictures and art. Coming in a future issue of ERB-dom... a proved quarterly, color too! 5 issues for $2, and a complete set of back issues for $5. Camille E. Cazedessus, Jr. 2350 E. Contour Dr., Baton Rouge, La 70809

NEWS ABOUT THE ALLEY AWARDS

ATTENTION, all fans and pros alike. Suggestions for the 1964 Alley Awards Poll are now being solicited. The nominating ballot, to be sent to members of the Executive Board soon, is now being prepared-but **all** TCR readers are urged to make their views regarding divisions, awards, tallying, etc. known now before the poll itself. All suggestions will be considered. Final ballots will appear in the January TCR. Make sure you vote in fandom's largest annual election. Reserve your TCR issue now. Send all comments and queries (enclosing s.a.e. if reply is desired) to the new Executive Sec.

Paul Gambaccini, 8 Elizabeth Drive, Westport, Conn. 06882

Jerry G. Bails
22529 Karam Court
Warren, Mich.

TCR might begin a campaign against undelivered fanzines. Why not ask for complaints and publish the number of complaints by the name of the faned in question?

I urge you to continue mailing TCR first class (both for speed and to guard against loss of 3rd class mail, which is all-too-common.)

((I'm happy someone mentioned this. I've had trouble getting issues from certain editors, and I'm sure others have. Send me the information needed, and I'll compile them, and publish them soon-Glen))